These things following are to inform concerning the Common-Wealth and State, that though they be large in respect of the greatnesse of the businesse they concern, and the many objections that are made and answered; It is earnestly desired they may be read by those concerned, though it should require an houres time to do it.

Wednesday the 12. of this instant *May* at 2 of the clock in the afternoon; the Committee about this businesse appointed to meet in the Exchequer Chamber, the place appointed by the House, where, & when, there will be an appearance of Clothiers from all parts of Clothing in this Kingdome; as also there is to be any appearance of any that will oppose about this businesse: And therfore it is humbly prayed, that as many Members of the House, as can possible, would bee pleased to meet about this businesse, so often as the Committee appoints to meet.

1. THe great Petition of the Generall Clothiers of the old and new Drapery of this Kingdome, to the Honourable House of Commons assembled in Parliament, was read in the House the 14. of *Novem.* last past, and referred to a Committee, whereof any of the House may be, and have a voyce.

2. The said Petition was read before this Honourable Committee, the 17. of *Decemb.* following, and adjorned to the 4. of *Feb.* following, and to the end that all complained of, and concerned might take notice thereof; it was ordered that the said Order should be printed, and publikely set up in severall places in *London*, and in all the Counties of Clothing, mentioned in the Petition, which was done by the Petitioners, though it was not expressed who should do it, and it was not published lesse, but more then was required, all endeavours being used to make it fully known, to the end, all adversaries thereunto might take notice thereof.

3. And the Committee meeting the said 4. of *Feb.* and divers dayes after, there was many objections made by the Staplers, which are heere after set down, and answered; and for some reasons hereafter shewed, the said Petition was by the Petitioners printed and published, as is hereafter expressed.

4. But before the objections and answers, be pleased to take notice of the heads of the Petition briefly set down, which are;

1. For prevention the falling of any truth in fleece wool &c. and the ill washing of any wool, especially the grosse abuse in the often mixing of fleece with great quantities of pitch.

2. That Wool, &c. and Fullers Earth, &c. may not be ingroſſed, nor tranſported; and therefore

3. That none may buy wool, but thoſe Tradeſmen that work & make it into the Manufactories made thereof, unleſſe Fell-mongers, ſuch wool as they pull off the ſheep-skins.

4. That none may be of the Petitioners trades, but thoſe that ſerve a due time thereunto.

Further praying, that ſome may be ſpecially appointed to ſee the laws made, or which ſhall be made touching the premiſes duly executed.

5. That ſuch abuſes are practiſed ſo, as that there was cauſe to deſire they might be prevented, was proved before the ſaid Committee ſo fully, as that they required no more proofes: if more would have bin taken, many more were then there ready, & offered, & are yet, if required, that it may yet more fully appeare, how great cauſe they have to complain, and petition for the ſaid things; and how it concernes the Parliament (for the good of the Common-wealth) to take care thereof.

6. Such proofe of the petition having been made as aforeſaid, and all the adverſaries that appeared heard, (which was only the Staplers, and one *Wil. Pattie* a Clothier of *Dorcheſter* by them procured. The petitioners alſo hoped that then their Reply ſhould have been received, and the buſineſſe reported to the Houſe, having very long attended, and hoped the buſineſſe would have been diſpatched before the laſt ſheep-ſhearing at furtheſt.

7. Yet notwithſtanding all this, and that this buſineſſe had been publiſhed as aforeſaid, the Staplers further deſired, that all the ſaid Petition might be publiſhed throughout *England*, pretending that ſome counties of Cloathing had not taken notice thereof, nor the wool-growers and others concerned, which if they did, they would appeare againſt it, and alſo thouſands of Clothiers, for that the being and continuance of the ſtaplers was not only good for the Growers, but alſo for the Clothiers themſelves, and the Common-wealth, and the contrary, deſtructive to them all.

8. Hereupon, though this buſineſſe had bin publiſhed, as hath bin ſaid and that it was very prejudiciall to the Petitioners, & as they conceive to the Common-wealth, to have this buſineſſe longer delayed, and that they did not think it had beene uſed to have ſuch a Petition ordered to be publiſhed; and that it was ſaid by ſome of the Committee, that the ſitting of the Committee was publike enough, eſpecially there being Members of the Houſe for all Counties, & though the Petitioners knew this to be moved by the Staplers to bring ſeverall great parties againſt them,

them, yet they to shew the cleernesse of their intentions, that they would desire nothing but what should appeare to bee best for the Commonwealth, after all had been heard that would come against them, they were content to stay almost a quarter of a year longer, and at their own charge, to print and send to the High Sheriffes in all the Circuits, the said Petition to be published. It being at last left to the choice of the Petitioners, whether it should be printed and published, or no: but if they were willing to have it so; then a Letter to be writ by the Chairman of this Committee to High Sheriffes, for the publishing thereof at the generall Assizes in the severall Circuits: this was the Order of the Committee; and the Staplers which at first would not undertake to do it (though they desired to have it done) have since also printed and dispierced the said Petition in the Country (and the Printers and Sellers name being to it (it hath been sold about the City with this addition: It is by them recommended to the consideration of all Wool-growers, and others, concerned in the said businesse, how inconvenient it will be to them, and destructive to the Kingdome, if the Petitioners shall be the only Buyers of Wool, and the Staplers prohibited. And that if the Wool-growers & others, shall apprehend such the Petitioners endeavours to be a common dammage; then by all just wayes to endeavour to prevent the Petitioners therein: So that now the Petitioners hope, that since the Petition hath bin thus published, this businesse will not be any longer deferred.

10. For the third part of the Petition, that none should buy Wool, but those that use it, there was a statute for it, which was repealed in the 21 of King *Iames*, which the petitioners desire may be revived and stand in force: And for the other three parts of the petition, there is Lawes yet in force; and without question there was great reason seene for the making of them, and that there will be more seen for the continuing & enlarging of them; but that Law concerning transportation, is very short for reformation, and all the rest to short, especially in respect that there is not some specially appointed to see them executed, as experience hath shewed, besides divers other reasons that may be given, as is humbly conceived: And therefore the Petitioners desire that some may be specially appointed to see the Lawes made, or which shall be made, touching the premises duly executed; and for the maintaining of such they offer to be at some charge; without which, they conceive the best Lawes that can be made will prove uneffectuall, and that as good no Lawes as not have them executed: but if possible wayes may be found out, for the due execution of the said Lawes, without Commissioners or Offi-

cers, or charge to the petitioners, they shall bee very glad and thankfull.

11. And if the Petitioners would after the first hearing (before the Committee) have yeelded to the continuance of the Staplers, there had been no objections against the Petition (none other appearing) against it, but *W. Pattie*, for they declared before the Committee, & afterwards to the petitioners particularly, that they had no exception against any part of the Petition, but only that which if granted, would prohibite them from buying of wooll, they agreeing that all other abuses complained of were grosse abuses, particularly those of the Jobbers, &c. and much practised, and fitto be reformed.

12. And though the Petitioners know that themselves, and believe that the Growers are not the better, but the worse for the Staplers, that as the case stands now, there is no difference between them & the Jobbers, Broggers, & the like Wool-buyers; yet they could be content, that the Staplers should be continued if all others were prohibited; but they also believe, that if they be at all permitted, things will be little amended, and that they will make many free of their Company for money, & so Jobbers, Broggers, and others will become Staplers; or if the Staplers would agree not to take any such into their Company for money, as they use to do, and have done lately, and could be otherwise regulated; yet they would take many such mens money into stock with them, and many Prentices, and so there would still by this meanes, be very much wool ingrossed, if not transported, and if they were limited not to buy till such a time that would be all one, as if they were not at all limited: So that since there is no use or need of them now, what ever there was long agoe, onely to transport wool, and that they helpe not but harme the Petitioners, and the Common-wealth, as is conceived, will plainly appear, it is desired, that they as wel as all others wool buyers, except the petitioners may be wholly prohibited.

13. But the Staplers would have it believed, as is before hinted, that all their pleading for their continuance, and against the Petitioners, is not so much for their own profit, as for the good of the Growers, of the Petitioners and Common-wealth, and this, together with their antiquity, and pattents lately, is the strength of all their objections, arguments, and reasons.

The Staplers objections.

In answering whereof will be the chiefe thing here insisted upon, because it was the only thing that stayed proceedings nothing else in the Petition finding any or not much opposition.

1. objekt. The Staplers say that to set the buying of wooll solely in the Cloathiers

thier will be inconvenient to the *Grower*, and also to the *Clothier* to inforce them to buy the one of the other, and if the *Clothier* ingrosse a *monopoly*, the rich *clothier* will ingrosse wool in divers parts of the *Kingdom* and will be greater ingrossers of wool; *it would be the greatest monopoly that ever was, and some have said that the Clothiers would combine together, and have wool at their own price.*

The Clothiers of the old and new Draperies Answer.

Can it be said, that the *Clothier* doth ingrosse a *monopoly*, or that hee is an ingrosser of *wool*, when he buyeth *wool* only to convent it into manufactories: May it not rather be said, that the *Staplers Patent* is a *Monopoly*, and that he is an unprofitable and hurtfull member of the *Commonwealth*, and the *Clothiers* would not have the *Staplers* more carefull for them then they themselves are, for they are contented to be inforced to buy of none but the *Growers*, if the *Grower* must sell to none but them, & so they must do having none else to buy of, & though they desire to bee the sole buyers of wool, incouraging & maintaining of trade, and the poor, *and they do not intend a monopoly, they intend to buy wool only for their own uses, to make cloaths, stuffes, and other manufactories, and they need buy little but what themselves can well use, but if a small quantity of what an Old Drapery man shall buy shall happen to be more fit for a new Drapery man, & if in like manner that which a new Drapery man shall buy shal be more fit for an old Drapery man, they intend to exchange one with another: they intend not to make a trade of buying & selling of wool; nor can they, if they fully follow their own trades; nor do they petition that they may sell wool, but that none may buy it, but those that work it, and to worke it is intended, and if this may not be granted, but that it shall still be permitted, that wool shall be bought out of their hands & endeared, then to likely many able clothiers, and some meanner, will in time, by degrees give over their trades, and turn Staplers, Iobbers, and Broggers, or partly give over, and be in the same nature which have not yet done it, though many already have done it wholly, or in part, and such a trade is farre more for their profit and ease, though much lesse for the good of the Common-wealth, and the reliefe of the poore, and for that objection of clothiers combining together to have the the Growers wool at their owne price, there is no colour for it, it is impossible for them to do, if they would, they are so numerous, and so far remote asunder, dispierced throughout the Kingdome, the Staplers, Iobbers, & Broggers, &c. are more likely so to do, and likely so do, as will appear. And this Petition is so far from a Monopoly, or self-seeking, that many Clothiers have subscribed unto it, and desire it, that are old and going out of the world, have given over, or are giving over trading, and never looke to have any benefit by it, if granted, only desire it for the good of posterity, and this common-wealth, & those that most seek themselves in it, doe it not to bee made rich, but to be kept from being made poor & that they may be able to set the poor on worke, and hold on their Trades, & not forced to give them over.*

C. Answer.

It is confessed, as is before insinuated, that divers Clothiers are ingrossers, and staplers, or Jobbers & Braggers of wool, & make a trade of selling of wooll, and many more will do so, if things continue as they are: but these are not the *Petitioners*, but it may be against it, and the *Petitioners* are as much against them as any other wool-sellers, & it may bee some Clothiers that are in debt to, & so in fear of the staplers, Jobbers, & Braggers will be for them, though they be undone by them, but not any have appeared for them.

S. 2. Object. 15. The Clothier buyes only short wooll, that provides not for *Kent*, *Essex* & *Warwicke*, the long wooll is for the Comber.

C. Answer. The staplers take great care to provide for the Clothiers of the New Draperie, & Combers of the said counties, who cannot be fitted without the staplers, as they say, & yet those of these places desire not the staplers continuance, but petition against them, not desiring to bee provided for by them, but rather to provide for themselves, which they would like a great deale better.

S. 3. Object. 16. While you inrich a few, you impoverish others, and that many more, & more are wool-growers, & maintained by that, then there is Combers, & if the Grower shall not be left at liberty to sell where hee pleaseth, he shall not be able to get in his Harvest, nor to pay his Rent, & that is to destroy Landlord and Tenant.

C. Answer. Peradventure, there may be as many, or more *Wooll growers* then *Clothiers*, yet it is a great question, there being very many *Clothiers* of the old and new Drapery, and there may indeed be more sheepe then Combers; yet it will not be granted, that all Landlords and Farmers are *Wooll-growers*, but that many keep no sheep at all, and that many keepe but a very few sheepe; and it is very rare, if there be any Farme that is stocked only with sheep, and for the most Farmes that are, the best stock that is upon them is sheep. And those Farmes that are stocked most with sheep, the *wooll* is not the only commodity of the sheepe, that inables the Landlord or Tenant: Surely, the bodies of the sheep & their Lambs, are worth something, if there be any Land-holder keeps nothing but sheep.

But the staplers speak of inabling to get in harvest, as well as to pay Rent, which implies that the only stock upon the ground (where sheepe are kept) is not sheepe (if there were nothing of the sheepe worth any thing, but the *wooll*) there is hay and corn &c. cowes and other cattell, &c. So that they are not only inabled by their wooll, nor do they keep servants only to keepe sheep, nor the Landlords or Tenants keepe sheepe only on their own Free-hold or Inheritance, or land which they hire, but very many, if not the most part of sheep, are kept on Heaths, Hills, and Commons, which are common. So that their greatest charges is a sheep-heard, which serves in Orchards, or among Quicks of sheepe, and in many

places

[illegible] the sheepe, besides the wooll for [illegible] that the wooll is but a peny, and for that as it [illegible] the maintenance of this [illegible] these are not like to be destroyed [illegible] but the clothiers be permitted to buy wool, though they should not buy it up so fast, nor give so much as the Staplers, for otherwise (both which they are like to do, if not more) the clothiers thereby appeare, that the Woolgrowers are more then the Parliament, for all the Petitioners names are set to the Petition, and it doth appeare, that those which are employed and maintained by the Clothiers are far more then those which are employed and maintained about sheepe; for whereas a whole flocke of sheepe need but one or two to keep a whole sheepe, and one man keepes many meths sheepe, and for the wool only, some Clothiers set 1000 on worke wholly, and whereas the wool is but [illegible] part, as hath before shewed, of the maintenance and employment of the Landlord or Tenant, wool doth wholy imploy and maintain, and provide for the Clothiers, and many thousands more that depend upon them, besides it maintaines trade, which is the very [illegible] of the Common-wealth and State: in which respect, the wooll of this kingdom are so pretious & beneficiall a commodity to this Common-wealth, not as they are in the Growers hands but after they come into the Clothiers hands.

And [illegible] the Staplers (as they say they doe) keepe 1000 Apprentices. There is many 1000 of apprentices & many 1000 of People in [illegible] many hundred thousands of families maintained by clothing, the most of which cannot otherwise subsist, & if things continue as they are, the poorer sort of these cannot be maintained, for the ableer sort will set them on work will be forced to give over, unless they should also be made poorer, and if the Staplers, Jobbers, and Broggers will buy wooll, let the also, if they will, so can make manufacturies, & set the poor on work. The Staplers say they have 2000 in flocke, and 1000 Apprentices with they breed (which is so many of the breed) but if it were 20000 in flock and a 1000. Apprentices, what were it to the Clothiers, and their flocke, and their Apprentices, and setters which wholly depend upon them as aforesaid. The Staplers and Jobbers, &c. doe little good but [illegible] velvets & if wool be not sent for dead an indifferent rate between buyer & seller, the trade of this kingdom will decay [illegible] shipped away & then the poor must be shipped also, and the [illegible] be kept by the Country & taken in the Country, therefore upon [illegible] be sad the poor that depend upon clothing, or for many of them to want work, especially in these times

17. The

5.4. Object. 17. The inconveniencie will bee great to leave the Grower to the Clothier only, and the conveniency great to leave the Grower to the Stapler and Clothier both, affirming that there are many Islands, that the Clothiers come not at, as the Island of *Sheppy*, and others, and they cannot vent their commodities, affirming likewise, that the Staplers buy that wool that the Clothiers will not buy.

C. Answer. The Answer to the former Objections might serve for answer to this; but further, It is confessed, that if it be good for the Common-wealth and State to have wool transported and ingrossed, and the trade of the Kingdome destroyed, and the Kingdome impoverished thereby; It is good that not only the Staplers, Jobbers, and Broggers, (or any who will) be permitted to buy and sell wool. But if not good, to have wool transported or ingrosed, but wrought into Manufactories in this Kingdome, then it must also be kept, sold and spent in this Kingdome; and who then must spend it, but those that work and make it into Manufactories, and who fitter to buy it at the first hand, then they, and must not the other Wool-buyers, if they buy it, sell it to them again. And the Clothiers may and will afford to give to the Wool-growers, a better price then to the Staplers, &c. And indeed, if the Staplers buy that wool, which the Clothiers will not buy, as is instanced in the Objection, what should they do with it, but transport it; but if there be no wool, but what the Clothiers of the old or new Drapery, or Combers can use, why should they not buy it as well as the Staplers, some or other of them where ever it growes. Unlesse as Staplers have said, they cannot use it till the Staplers have sorted it for them, which will be disproved by & by, and many Clothiers are as able to buy great parcels of wooll, and give ready money for them, as the Staplers, and that in the beginning of the yeare between *Midsummer* and *Michaelmas*, and all Clothiers would buy in this time, and will, if it still be not bought up from them; and put case, many Clothiers cannot lay out money enough the first time of the yeer, for wool to serve them all the yeare: there are also many wool-growers that are not necessitated for want of money to sell their wool presently, and if there be a benefit in keeping of it some time, why should not that benefit accrew to them, as well as to the Staplers, &c.

And there is no doubt, but all the Growers wools will be bought within the year, if not sooner, by the clothiers, & Clothiers have bought in the Island of *Sheppy*, & would buy more, if not bought up from them; by the *staplers* & if because of selling of wool altogether, & all at first, for payment of rents, or for any such reasons, Staplers or other Wool-buyers must be permitted: then why should not ingrossers of Corn be permitted to buy and hoard up the most part of the corn at first, to make a dearth

stand and sending of corn, as now there is of wool, and why do not the Landlords and Tenants to sell corne? But do sell it at home, or at Markets every week to make money, and to furnish people as they have occasion to use it. And so the Clothiers and other Tradesmen sell all their corne to one man, but sell several sorts to several men, for their several occasions.

And though the Petitioners desire not that any should bee forced to bring their wools to Market to sell; yet it is wished, that there were more Markets for wool used, that so many as pleased might bring their wools to Market, which would cause an increase of the Markets of this Kingdome, which are very beneficial to the Kingdome, and Cattel, and Cattel, and all other Provisions, are brought to Market to sell, and so are all the commodities made of Wool, Clothes & Stuffes, & other Manufactories, though any have liberty to goe, and many do go and buy such things where they grow, or are bred, or are made; and it might also bee very good, if some Fairs at fit seasons of the year, were in some places for sale of Wool, and then many Growers might put off their Wools better then they doe, and this might also doe well for many Clothiers of the old and new Drapery to buy Wool; and as there are Clothiers that buy but small parcels of Wool; so there are Wool-growers that sell but small parcels of Wool; and why should not Clothiers buy when they can, and Growers sell when they can, as it is for other Commodities.

It may be in some County or Counties, for some reasons, the Clothiers thereof, or others that make Manufactories, may desire as heretofore, to have the Wools of such Counties bought by others, and brought them or sold them, or made into yarne for them, which there may bee as much reason to grant, as heretofore: the Petitioners desire not any thing prejudiciall or inconvenient to any County, if it bee not prejudiciall to the Common-wealth.

And unlesse in such case, it is conceived, it will not be any losse, or any wayes inconvenient to the Wool-grower, or the Kingdome, but the better for both, if the Petitioners be the sole & only buyers of Wool, and the Staplers and all others prohibited.

But if the major part of the Clothiers of any County, shall petition to have the Staplers, Jobbers, & Brogers buy and sell them Wool in that County, the rest of the Petitioners do not desire they should be debarred of that liberty, let those Clothiers have them which are in love with them: For heretofore many Wool-growers have been heard to complaine of these other Wool-buyers, how much they deceive them in weighing of the wool they buy of them, and how they hinder the Clothiers from coming to buy of them, they deceive both the Wool-grower, and Clothier, in weighing

weighing and in abusing of Wool and if wool be scarce that is much sold at an ordinary price, or however it is better for the Clothier to give a greater price to the Wool-growers then to the Wool-buyers; and the Wool-growers ordinarily have not the benefit in raising of the price of wool for the said Wool-buyers beat down the price at the wool-growers hands, as much as they can, and then raise the price as much as they can after it comes into their own hands. So that these Wool-buyers are the only or chief gainers, and the Petitioners and the Commonwealth the only losers.

And these wool-buyers do so much abuse wool, before they have bought it, before they sell it again, by mixing all sorts of wool together, and by putting Sand and water in it, and otherwise enturning of it, that they may sell it cheaper then they bought it, and be gainers by it. Then if the Clothiers give more to the Growers, then to them it will stand them in less then from them: To instance here only their deceit by water, it is believed, it will be proved, that some of them have put near 100. Gallons of Water into 4 or 5. Loades of Wool, and others as much water, as hath made such a quantity of wool so much heavier, as would make it yield 20 l. in money the more for the said water. But these and the like corruptions will be set forth before the Committee, if need be, as would be too tedious to set down here; only briefly, & particularly note, their false scams, their laying wool in moyst places, on purpose to get water, mixing course wool with fine, & fleece wool, and Lambs wool, & sand, &c. as likewise how these forestall the Markets, and hinder the Growers from selling to the Clothiers, and the Clothiers from buying of the Growers, and so hinder both the Growers from a better price, then they might have of the Clothiers, then of the said other wool-buyers, and the Clothiers from a better penny worth, then he might have of the Growers, then of the other wool-buyer; to instance but in one way for many, how this is done, and may be.

These wool-buyers go through a wool-country, and as they go through, ask the price of wool, and agree to give so much, or as much as they aske, and promise to call for it within a week or such a day, and then come back, then some of them usually do use to buy wool in the Market-places, Jobbers, & Brokers buy and sell them Wool in that Country, then the Clothiers call for it, and bid a good price, which the Growers will not take, having been bid more, and since these Clothiers and some these Wool-buyers that were with the said Growers contracted another price, according to promise, have sold others, and then these Growers must take less then the Clothiers would have given, or they

against by this word when they sell to the Clothiers, such their ways as this will be more fully set forth before the Committee, if needs bee.

The Clothiers if they had a mind to do thus, they could not thus doe, for they have another trade to look after, and great families, and many work-folkes to set on work, and must make the best benefit of their trade as well as others, therefore had better deale with the Clothiers then other Woolbuyers.

Whereas now there are few Clothiers, in comparison of what there would be, that come to the Growers to buy wool, being prevented as aforesaid, and taking it for granted, that all other Woolbuyers are prohibited, is more but time and money spent to no purpose, for the Clothiers in generall to take journies, or goe to Markets to buy wooll of the Growers, whereas if all others buy, the Clothiers were prohibited buying of wool, the Growers would have many more buyers then they have now and alwayes the more buyers, the better price and the better price, for many more reasons then are before or hereafter given.

It will be confessed that the Staplers Jobbers and Broggers, and the like Wool-buyers, have brought woolles to this excessive price that now it is: and therefore peradventure some Growers may say, that if they be put down, the price of which will much come downe, and that therefore they would not have them Down; the Petitioners grant that it may be so, and therefore petition that they may have it so, that is to say, at an indifferent price (or such and better so) that the Kingdome should be undone, and grant that no wool shall be transported nor ingrossed (which will undoe the Kingdome, as is conceived, if continued) the Petitioners there aware, that the Growers shall have a better price for their wool, if all other wool-buyers but themselves be prohibited, then if they be continued.

18. But the Staplers take great care for the welfare of the Clothiers as well as the Growers; and therefore say that the Staplers are fit to be maintained, in respect of their trade, for first the Staplers buy the long and short wools, the short is for the Clothiers, the long for the Combers, the Stapler divides the fine and the coarse, and distributes to the vending for those for whom it is proper, he serves many poore severall sorts, and these severall sorts are fit for severall persons, as to the *Clothier*, *Worsted-maker*, *Comber*, *Bay-maker*, and others, who cannot so conveniently do this as the Stapler, nor can therefore subsist without the Stapler, he furnished for their severall purposes in short Commodities, the Clothiers would have fine wool, in others course. If the Staplers may not be permitted to buy and sell wools Clothiers must be beholden to the new Drapery for the worth of

S. 3. *object.*

wool for their use, must lay out 100 l. and if the Comber would furnish himself with 200 l. worth of wool for his occasion, he must buy 400 l. worth, to pick so much out of it.

C. *Answer.* If the Staplers be thus beneficiall to the Petitioners (who are all Clothiers, by the names of clothiers, Weavers, Bay-makers, Serge-makers, Say-makers, Wosted-Combers, and Cloth-workers) that in all these respects, they cannot be without them, they were much over-seen to petition against them, and to desire that they should be prohibited from buying of wool, and they do yet desire that they may be prohibited. And since the Petition of the Staplers desire hath been published, not onely those Counties that petitioned before against them, are more against them; but there is more counties to the petition against them, and all other Wool-buyers, then was before, as *Devonshire*, *Dorsetshire*, *Lancashire*, and *Oxfordshire*, and a greater number of *Yorkeshire*, then was before; which counties particularly, they pretend would bee much for them, saying, they had not before had notice of the Petition: So that there is now this addition to the Petition, and so all the cloathing counties in *England* against them, and for all things in the Petition. And the Petitioners do not know of any clothiers that will be for them, unlesse such as before shewed for the reasons before shewed, or peradventure there may be more of the mind of the aforesaid Mr. *Partie*, the clothier who spake much in their behalfes before the Committee, though as some have said, he said but 2 or 3 days before, that unlesse they were put down the Clothiers were undone, or words to that effect. And his reasons for their continuance, were

1. That they have not in those parts (*and he lives at Dorset in Dorsetshire*) quantities of Wool sufficient to set the people on worke.

And 2. That they cannot go into the countries, for want of stocke to furnish themselves.

And 3. That if he should lay out 100 or 150 *l.* in wooll, a great part of it is not fit for his purpose.

And 4. speakes of three sorts of wool taken out of the Kentish wool, the greatest part whereof is not for them.

To the 1. Clothiers that come out of those parts say, that Dorsetshire is not able to spend half the wool of the growth of that County, or that the Wooll of the Country is fit for the Countries use.

To the 2. They say that they had better not set up trade, that have not an indifferent good stock, but must be beholding to the Staplers for credit, and had better take up money at 10. *per cent.*

The 3. and 4. they deny, and so do those of other parts, who say, they

may, if they please from the Grower, be furnished for their purposes, & need have little or none, but what is for their use.

But put case there were a 100 or 1000. *Clothiers*, for the continuing of the Staplers, what were it for hundreds thousands that are against them: but it is not yet known of any, that are for them. for it is better to stand the one the was it nowagainst them, and thus much might serve for an answer to this Objection.

But further, *The Petitioners say that as the Staplers do not buy to sell for All the wool they buy, before they sell it, but sell some of it, as they buy it*: So the old and new Drapery men, and Combers do buy all sorts of wooll, and so all the wools of the Kingdome may be bought without the Staplers, & c. from the *Growers*, and the *Petitioners* had much rather have it from the *Growers*, then from them.

The Old Drapery men desire to buy only short, and the new Drapery men and Combers only long Wooll, unlesse a *Grower* desire either of them to take some that is not for their uses, because he would sell all; but if it be granted, that none but the Petitioners shall buy, it will bee much for the *Growers* advantage, in this respect, for he shall have plenty and choice of customers for both his sorts, and hee can cast his Wooll and sell it severally, and so may have a better price for it. For either sort of *Clothiers* will give most when they take that only which is for their use as it is in all other things, & *Growers* had wont heretofore to cast and sort their wool for several purposes, and sell it to those for whom it was most fit: nor doe the *Clothiers* of either sort desire to buy wooll upon the sheepes back, or any way to fore-stall the Market; but if the State shall think fit to have such things permitted, to furnish some men with money before-hand, many Clothiers are able to do it, and may be willing to do it, but do not desire it.

And the Clothiers, some or other of them, can and will come and buy into the remotest places where they may have wooll, and there likely too nest, because cheapest; and those Clothiers that cannot goe themselves, cannot they send others to buy it for them, as the Staplers doe, they must fetch it where it is to be had, for they must have it; and is wooll made dearer the cheaper, by being brought farre from Counties of Clothing to *London* or elsewhere, where not Manufactories are made, and then carryed back into the same places to be made into Manufactories at great charge: is the Common-wealth or Grower benefited by this? the *Clothiers* might afford to give more at home to the Grower, and better, then to be at charge to fetch it so farre back again from the *Staples*, and commodities might be made the cheaper for this, which is the better for Trade, and so consequently for the Common-Wealth.

The

The *Clothiers* confesse that the *Staplers* may sort the wooll they buy into severall sorts, before they sell them to the Clothiers, but not so much for those for whom they are proper, as for any that will buy them & for their own profit: and do confesse, that they do indeed divide the fine from the course, and make the *Clothiers* pay more for the course, then themselves paid for the fine, and that they do these things for their own ends not to fit or benefit the Clothiers, but to deceive them rather, and for the like reasons, they sort it into so many, as 7 or 8 severall sorts, wherein lyeth their art, and the Clothiers of all sorts, can without them buy that which is proper for their severall purposes, if they and the like wool-buyers did not fore-stall the Marker, & buy before them, & that many times on the sheepes backe, & are not as they say, forced for 20.l. worth of wool for their use, to lay out 200.l. but confesse, that in laying out 200.l in wooll, they may sometimes have 20.l. worth, that it is better for them to exchange, or sell, then use,

And the *Clothiers* would not have any believe, what ever the staplers say, that the staplers can cast, shiften and sort wools for the *Clothiers* use better then themselves can, when they can doe it nothing neere so well, and do aver, that their want of skill, or will to do it well, doth the *Clothiers much wrong*, and the Manufactories are therefore much the worse, as they find when they come to work them, and when that they are made, and very many Clothes and stuffes prove very bad, made particularly very rowy, and will not take even nor good colours, through the unskilfull, or deceitfull sorting of wooll, which those Tradesmen that buy them, and those people that weare them find.

S. 6 Obiect. 19. Another thing which the Staplers pleade for their standing is their Antiquity and pattents lately.

C. Answer. The Clothiers answer, that they beleive they are not older then the High Commission, Court or Star-Chamber; and know that when they were first ordained, it was for Transportation of wooll and other staple-comodities into forraine parts, there being then few or no Manufactories, made of wooll here in this Kingdom, but to transporte wooll now is destructive to the Common-wealth, and many provisions have been made against it, & that the Staplers were ordained at first, and also of late times, for purposes aforesaid, only will appeare by late Statutes, *it stance* only in the *St. 5 & 6 E. 6 C. 7.* which is to this effect,

The reason for making this statute Forasmuch as the wools of this Kingdome in reason ought to be at convenient and reasonable prises, yet by the greedy & coveteous minds of some growers, and by the Corrupt practises of divers Broggers, & ingrocers, wooll-gatherers, and regrators, and sundry other persons, by

by the having soe much liberty of buying, keeping, selling, and ocupiing of the same woolls, it manifestly appeares that the prises thereof be wonderfully and exceedingly exhanced and raised to the great hurt derriment and decay of the Realme.

Be it therefore ordained, established and enacted, &c. That no manner of persons buy woolls, but those that work it into some manufactories, and that Marchants of the staple of Callice to be shipped only to the staple of Callice, who may buy the woolls of some few particular counties named at certaine times limited to ship & transport the same into the parts beyond the seas and may sell such refuse course woolls and locks as are not fit to be transported to the makers of Cloath, &c. The Statute

Now it doth appear this Statute continued in force tell the 15 of K. Iames, for though the Staplers (then called the Marchants, late of the Town of *Callice*) had a grant from Queen Elizabeth, in the 3 yeare of her Raigne, yet it was for the staple of wools to be at *Burges, Middelburry, Bergen-up-zome* in such manner as it was at *Calice*, before the takeing or surprisall thereof and becaus (as is expressed in their grant from King Iames in the 15 yeer of his Raigne) that it was found that transportation of wooll, &c. as aforesaid did tend to the great damage of the state and Common-wealth The staple of woolls was removed from the saide parts beyond the Seas to certaine Townes in England, named and power granted to the Staplers to buy and sell wooll in the townes assigned and ordained as aforesaid the several Statutes & act. in the divers severall Parliaments holden in the 14 yeare of Edward the 4 and in the 5. and 6. yeare of Edward the 6 or any other Statutes, acts, ordinances, provisos, or restraints notwithstanding.

So that it appeares, that their Patent was granted there contrary to former acts of Parliament, and that they were before to buy wooll only to transport it, and that till now, they had not liberty to buy and sell wool in England. But though they had no power to buy and sell wooll before, yet they took a liberty to do it: whereupon wools being ingrossed into their hands and indeered, and the Clothiers wanting wooll for their use, before this grant of King IAMES, the Clothiers (as those which followed the businesse do yet remember) complained to the Councell Table: whereupon it was ordered that the staplers should buy no more wooll; yet nevertheless they afterwards presumed to doe it, and the CLOTHIERS againe complained as before, and many of the chiefe of the staplers were committed to prison, as some that followed the businesse do remember, and that also after this, they procured their aforesaid Patent, as was reported, and as by the aforesaid is believed by meanes of some Courtier, for some great summe of money, and then took in very many into their Companie, for great Fines to pay the said summe.

And

Lastly, or 6 yeares after, that which was in the 21 yeare of K. Edward, the staplers fearing that their power would not hold (as those which before followed the businesse for the Clothiers do believe) were the chiefe meanes to procure the statute before-mentioned, made in the 5. year of K. Ed. 6. (*that none should buy wooll, but those that work it*) to be then repealed, which gives a liberty to any, to buy and sell wool, which hath caused so much wool to be transported and ingrossed, that the Petitioners want for their use, and can have but little, but at the 2, 3, 4, or 5 hands. And I believe, if the intention of repealing the said Law had been published, as this Petition hath bin, to the end that any that would, might shew reasons against might appeare, there would have been so much reason shewed for the continuance thereof, as that it would have been continued, and there is more reason, as is conceived, why it should be now revived, then there was for the making thereof, when it was first made, or then could bee shewed for the continuance thereof when it was repealed: if any considerable Clothiers of severall parts could have taken notice, that it was intended, *that it should be repealed.*

20 1. It is believed it will be granted, that the wools of this Kingdome had better be burnt in it, then transported out of it, and that it will not be accounted harsh (as the *Petitioners* have desired) to make transportation of wooll out of this Kingdome fellony, or as bad, since a man suffers as a fellon that steales but a title from another man, through necessity, when perhaps hunger makes him break through a stone-wal to do it (as it is said hunger will do) how much more, then doth he deserve to dy, who not to relieve his necessity, but to maintain his superfluity steales from the whole Kingdome the native and chiefe staple commodity thereof, the carrying thereof from hence, being so prejudicial, & the keeping whereof here being so beneficiall to this *Common-wealth* and *State*,

The reasons follow

And the giving of a liberty to any but the *Petitioners* (who doe onely work wooll into Manufactories) to buy wooll is one, if not the onely cause of transportation of wool out of this Kingdome. And strict provision hath heretofore been made that no wooll should be carryed into *Scotland*, which as is conceived, would also do well to be remembred, in the drawing up of the Act or Ordinance: as also, that no wool be carried from *Ireland*, to any place but *England*.

2. And if for this reason only, for that through the greedy and covetous minds of some Wool-growers and by the corrupt practises of Brokers, Ingrossers, Wool-gatherers, Regraters, and such like, Wools were growne deare and that this only was to the great hurt, detriment, and decay of the Kingdom, and therefore it was provided, that none had

should buy wooll but those that work it into some Manufactories. How much more reason is there then now, that the same Law should be revived and made in force, when there are the very same reasons for it now, that there was then, and many more and much greater.

3. In one of the houses of Parliament there are sacks of wooll to set upon. To put the Parliament in mind (as is fully of making the best Lawes that can be devised concerning it upon, for the good of this Kingdom, Wooll being the chiefe staple commodity thereof, more especially since it hath come to be wrought into manufactures here) therefore the State heretofore tooke care, to have strangers come over hither to teach and that the Natives of this Kingd. might learne the arts & mysteries of making Wooll into manufactures, & gave great incouragement this way and there was formerly great regard had to the Clothiers of this Kingdom that they might be encouraged and goe on with their trade and set the poore on worke, and much more cause is conceived is there now to take care of these things since the Kingdome is growne far more populous, then it was when the said care was taken.

Whereas now many goe from hence into forraigne parts, to set up and teach the said arts and mysteries to aliens, and strangers and very much wooll is carried from hence, thither, which is to carry away trades from hence thither, which there was so much care taken to bring hither and keepe here.

4. And now they have in parts beyond the Seas, great quantities of wooll, and fullers-earth, which they had from hence. That they may afforde to send back and sell the same woolls here, and be great vaiders at the price of wooll goes here now, and the great price here is chiefly occasioned, by transportation, by forstalling of Markets, & by buying of woolls upon the sheeps backs and by ingrossing thereof, and commodities made of our wooll beyond seas may be sent hither, and afforded cheaper then they can be made & wrought here, which must needs cause a decay of trade here, which will be more found, and felt hereafter if not prevented, and it is credibly informed that there is now at least as many, if not thousands of Cloaths made in *Holland*, as there was not long agoe thousands. Whereas if Wooll, and fullers earth, be kept from being transported, and ingrossed, and be at an indifferent rate & that the Clothiers may have it for their use, (all which likely will be, if they have their desires) the very many Manufactures that are now made beyond seas, will be made here, and then the more wooll used here, which will be never the worse for the grower, but the common-wealth, and they cannot be made any where so well, and so cheape

And therefore many lesse made in clothing comes in England.

cheape without our wooll, and fullers earth, as here nor he had so well elsewhere and the trade will be kept here, and it was for that they could be afforded from hence, at reasonable rates that they have vented so well beyond Seas and if that faile here, there will be little vent, for them here, for it must be Englands being able to undersell them that must keepe the trade to England. and from them, which as is conceived cannot be done if Staplers, Jobbers, Broggers, or any other but the Petitioners be permitted, and (as is conceived) if it be not the Staplers &c. furnishing the growers with money to pay rent, or the like reason if it could not be done as well without them, that is to be ballanced with the trade of this Kingdome arising chiefely from wooll, if kept here, and that after it comes into the petitioners hands, (which cannot be before) doth not trade provide, not only particularly for the greatest number of the poore, but for the greatest part of this Kingdome of all sorts, and bring the greatest revenue to the State, and how elf better is the greatest part of this Kingdome enabled to subsist, not only the workers of woollen commodities, & such as depend wholy upon them but all the sellers of the said commodities, particularly how doth it maintaine Marchandizing, & Shipping, which is the walls of the Kingdome, and many thousands that wayes.

them *which must be by keeping wooll here, & selling it at indifferant rates.*

So that there is not (as is conceived) the like reason to grant a liberty for any to buy wooll, that there may be for any other commodity.

And if the *Staplers Patent* were an Act of Parliament, they will confesse, the same power can and will take it away, if it be found not good for the *Common-wealth*.

And the *Petitioners* humbly conceive it will appeare that they are not beneficial or usefull to the Growers muchlesse to the *Petitioners* or *Common-wealth*, but the contrary, even destructive.

And if the *Petitioners* have granted, what they have desired, if it shall hereafter be found a dammage or inconvenient to this *Common-wealth* & *State*, they will be freely contented to be without such Lawes, and to have better come in their roome.

5. And in all the said respects it is hoped, that though the *Petitioners* should be no more solicitous in this businesse; yet for the good of this *Common-wealth* & *State* there will speedily be care taken by this *Parliament*, for the speeding of that which shall be accounted a common good, and settling the best way therefore.

And the Marchant Adventurers, Turkie, Russia, Ballland, Spanish Merchants, Woollen Drapers, and Cloth workers (whereof halfe a score of the Aldermen of *London*, 2 of which are great Growers) do concurre with the *Petitioners*, and have subscribed to the *Petition*, and so would

the

growers as is conſeaved, if all the aforeſaid things were by them well conſidered, as alſo ſ many of them do put their children prentice to the Petitioners and Marchants, and other tradſmen, that deale in the woollen commodities, and if by the growers meanes the Petition be not granted themſelves are prejudiced, and if ſome *Petitioners* of all ſorts may be fully heard, if this doth not ſatisfie, it is hoped there will be ſufficient reaſons given for all that is deſired in the *Petition*, which could not here be ſo well done in divers reſpects, if this had not been done in haſte.

6. In the mean time it is alſo humbly prayed, that it may be remembred, that the *Petitioners* are a great part of the Kingdome, and not the leaſt in aſſiſtance of State-affaires by their perſons and purſes, having been, and alwayes being ready, to their power, to ſerve the State. And that the Kings of this Realme, have alwayes beene willing and ready to cherish and incourage the Clothiers of this Kingdome, for the Reaſons before ſhewed.

7. And the *Petitioners* deſire that they may be looked upon no otherwiſe, then they look at the good of the *Common-wealth*, in what they dehre, as well as their own goods. Humbly conceiving, that this is a cauſe worth owning and conſidering, (in reference to the Publique) though they may faile in the mannaging thereof not having time to ſpare from their Callings and Families, the moſt of them alſo being far diſtant from *London*, & very buſie about their Calings when here & muſt for the moſt part truſt much to others; beſides they are ſcattered into almoſt all parts of the Kingdome, and far one from another, and are great multitudes, which muſt needes be great impediments to the mannaging of ſuch a buſineſſe well & many errours may be committed, which they deſire may be excuſed, and deſire that the cauſe may not therefore ſuffer. They haue experience in their Trades, and are ſenſible of their ſufferings, and therfore the better able to anſwer the Staplers objections, but deſire they may not be wearied, and diſcouraged by their hopes, being deferred.

They only humbly remember you of theſe things, and offer them to your grave & ſerious conſideration, and ſubmit all to the wiſdome and pleaſure of the Parliament.

3. *May*, 47. FINIS.

Errata.

Pag. 6, Object. 2, a line or two left out, as may partly appear by the Anſwer. p. 7. for 2000. l. ſtocke, read 20000. p. 10 f. ſeames, r beames, p. 11. f. byr. but, f. ther r. then. p. 12. f. Dorſet, r. Dorcheſter, For theſe, and divers more faults in printing, a charitable and favourable cenſure is deſired. And that it may be remembred, that by Clothiers is meant not only the makers of Woollen cloths but the makers of Stuffes, and all other Manufactories rich and poore.

SInce the Staplers objections before-mentioned, there hath come from some few Counties from some Woolbuyers, by the name of Staplers, Felmongers, Jobbers, Broggers, Woolmen, or Wool drivers, some Petitions and Certificates by way of objection against the 3. head of the Clothiers Petition; as also from some Woolgrowers who plead for the continuance of the said Woolbuyers, at least for them called Staplers, and something hath been said by councell for all these; but though the said Woolbuyers have different names, they are little different in nature, and are all (as is conceived) not only useleſſe, but deſtructive to the Common wealth, though they be rendred the contrary. And all the said objections by or for all the aforesaid, and against the Clothiers, are in substance and effect, as followeth:

1. That the main scope and ayme in all these Petitions, Certificates, and pleadings, is to shew that the Clothiers are Projectors, and that their main scope and ayme is, to set up a Monopoly, in endeavouring to engros the sole and only buying of Wool into their own hands: and therefore desire, that an old repealed Law (which would be as heretofore, to restrain Staplers, and all others but themselves from buying of wool) may be revived, and their desiring the setting up of new Officers (which they pray may be themselves) discovers plainly the private drift of this project, and may be burthensome and inconvenient to the Subject, Further shewing, that it is against the freedome of the Subject to be bound up to whom he shall sell his commodity, and may be dangerous, especially in this unsetled condition of the State, and much is said, concerning the poore Growers of wool.

2. It is further shewed from some Counties, that breeding of sheepe is their principall Revenue, and their wool being their most valuable commodity, principally inables them to pay their rent and other charges and to maintain their Families, which they shall not be able to doe, if the Staplers, &c. be not continued, nor shall they be furnished with monies at their needes.

3. It is further shewed, that if what the Clothiers desire were granted, and in some Petitions it is said, they have already by subtilty procured an Ordinance for it) the Growers should be left but to one Chapman, or one kind of Chapmen, and that they would be a society that would agree and combine together, to debace the prises of wool, and to have the wool of this Kingdome at what rate they please, and so would become masters of the Growers estates, more especially, the poore will be forced to sell at what price the Clothier pleaseth, or else they must keepe it to

their

their owne losse and prejudice, and it will not recompence the poores paines, in going to Market with their small quantities of wool, whereas all Growers now have choice of Chapmen, and may sell to him which bids most.

4. Particularly it is charged in the *Northamptonshire* Petition (of which it is said there will be proofe made) that the Clothiers in hope to obtaine their Petition, have beene tampering to beat downe the prises of wool, who combining together, may rule the prises thereof at their pleasure, and taking all advantages of benefitting themselves, and prejudicing them, would if the said statute were revived, doe mischief by a Law, whereas the said Law was repealed (as by them is believed) to prevent the Clothiers extraordinary gaine, and the Growers extream losse: further shewing, that they having no Clothiers amongst them, have beene forced, especially in these times of trouble, to carry the wools to the Clothiers in other parts.

And in the *Warwickshire Petition* it is shewed, that in that County there are only some few Clothiers at *Coventry*, but not considerable, to spend the wools of that County.

And it is certified from *Ramney* and *Ramney marsh* in *Kent*, that the wools in those parts being great and deep stapled, they are not fit for the Clothier, unlesse the fleeces be first broke, and sorted course from fine, by some other better skilled then the sheep-master. And something was also said by Councell, on the behalfe of the Felmongers, as if the Clothiers desired that their trades might be taken from them.

5. Now by all this it appeares, that the adversaries to the Clothiers would have it believed, That if the said Law should be revived, not only the wool-men or the wool-drivers, but the Clothiers themselves, especially the poorer sort, would be much prejudiced, if not quite undone many of them. 2. That the wool growers would be abundantly disabled, if not many of them destroyed. 3 And that trading would be decayed, and the Kingdome impoverished. For, 1 Whereas now by the Staplers, &c. the wool-growers, especially the poorer sort are readily furnished with money for their occasions, and the poor Clothiers with wool, as they have occasion at reasonable rates sometimes upon credit, they wanting stock. 2 But if the Clothiers obtain their desires, the richer sort of them will ingrosse the wools of the Kingdome into their hands, and then as the great fishes devour the lesse; so will the rich Clothiers devour the poor. 3. It will make the land of this Kingdome of little valve; for it will much bring down the prises of rents, and will discourage the owners and farmers of Lands from breeding of sheepe.

All

All the aforesaid things they have by their Councell offered to p... for matter of Fact, which the Committee according to their desire have given way they should, if they can do the first of June next, which how they can do (the aforesaid Answers to the *London Staplers* objections, & the following Answers to these objections, with what more may be said considered) is not conceived.

6. Yet in respect of what they have said, and offred to prove, it is also said in the Petition. God forbid the Clothiers should prevaile, and all Petitions, Certificates, and pleadings, speakes more or lesse for the Staplers, some for the wool-men or wool-drivers.

And prayers are made, that the said Law repealed may stand repealed; but if it shall be thought fit, that restraint be laid upon some persons frō buying and selling of wool unwrought, that the staplers who are an ancient society, and have continued to the honour and wealth of this kingdome, so many ages in perpetuall succession, may have free trade and liberty in the premises as formerly. Further praying, that all other abuses mentioned in the Petition, may be reformed; and in some Petitions it is prayed, that wool may not be transported. It should then also have been prayed (as is conceived) that none but the Clothiers be permitted to buy it.

Clothiers Answer.

To the first objection is answered, that it is hoped that the Answer made to the Staplers first objection, pag. 5. might suffice to cleere them from having the least intention of desiring to set up a monopoly, and from being so unwise as to offer to desire any such thing of a Parliament and they believe, that if any such desire had been in their Petition, it would have been therefore rejected, and not have been received and committed. *Answ. to the 1. object.*

But for a more full answer, they humbly offer it to consideration whether the staplers do not indeed endeavour the continuance of a monopoly, when they oppose the Clothiers, and plead for their own continuance by a pattent, and whether there be not reason for the Clothiers to desire that the said Law may be revived (and Law is no monopoly) if the answer to the 6. objection, *pag.* 14, &c. and other answers be considered; nor shall the Clothiers, they hope, be accounted monopolizers, or ingrossers of wool, because they desire to prevent ingrossing of wool; and how can they be said to ingrosse wool, when they desire to buy none to sell, but to buy only for their own uses to work into manufactories. And can it be said, that the Grower is bound up in selling of his Wool when

he

ſie is left at liberty, to ſell to all the Workers of wool into manufactories, which are far more then they were, when the ſaid Law was made, that none ſhould buy wool, but thoſe that work it: and ſurely, it will not be ſaid, that the Parliament then in making of the ſaid Law did or would do any thing againſt the freedome, or good of the Subject; and it is conceived it would be no hard matter to make it appear, that ſince the ſaid Law was repealed, wools have not born ſo good a priee as they did before except within this year or thereabonts. And it would in many reſpects (as is conceived) be deſtructive to this Kingdome, if they ſhould hold at the priee they do now.

And as hath been before ſhewed in the Anſwers to the Staplers Objections, unleſſe it be good for the Common wealth to have wool tranſported or ingroſſed, it will not be bad, but beſt for the Common wealth and the Growers, to have the buying of wool ſetled ſolely in the Clothiers, and the rather (as is humbly conceived) for the unſetled condition of the State.

For if through the ingroſſing of wool, the Trades of the Clothiers of all ſorts, of the Marchants and others ſhall decay, and that the poore that depend upon all theſe, ſhal want work (all which is like to be, if other woolbuyers but the Clothiers, be permitted as they have been) it is humbly offered to be conſidered, whether the ſtill permitting ſuch Woolbuyers and Ingroſſers, as are ſtaplers, &c. be the beſt way to have the State better ſetled, the poore that depend upon the Clothiers for their whole ſubſiſtance being many hundred thouſands, whereas there are very few Farmers that are able to have any ſtock of ſheepe that are poore. And for that mater of Officers, the Clothiers do not in their Petition abſolutely deſire it, only humbly propound it for the reaſons before mentioned, *pag.* 3. *N.* 10. and leave it to the wiſdome and pleaſure of the Houſe; nor did they intend themſelves to be Officers if any were, but if any were, they freely offer an allowance for their maintenance and encouragement, and what is offered, is not compelled; and therefore (as is conceived) cannot be accounted burthenſome to the Subjects: nor is it a charge upon the Subiects ingenerall, or upon any againſt their will, but it is (as is conceived) for the good of the Subiects ingenerall, when for a ſmall matter from the Clothier (as it is when it comes from them all) the Lawes will be better executed: they onely deſired that if they paid, they might have the preſenting of the perſons to be paid, and intended to preſent ſuch as are not Clothiers, that had in the Clothiers abſence aſſiſted them in the mannaging of this ſuit, and ſuch others, as they conceived fit.

is conceived) in the Answers to the Staplers 3. and 4. Objections: yet the following answer may be a further answer to this.

To the 3. Objection they answer, that they conceive in the aforesaid Answers to the Staplers Objections, there may be found satisfactory Answers to all these particulars, only upon this occasion they say, they are sorry they could not before this have (as is said they have) an Ordinance for what they have desired, because they conceive it would have been good for the Common weale. *Answer to the 3. object.*

And further they say (though they be the same things in effect that have been before said) that if that be granted which is desired, the growers shall have more choice of Chapmen then they have now, and may sell to him that bids most. For, by Clothiers is meant not only such as make cloth (unlesse all that is made of Wool be took for cloth) but by the Petition is intended, that all that are convertors of Wool into any Manufactory should buy Wool; and therefore hee was mistaken, that said, that it was desired or intended that those that made Yarne should be excluded, and there is five or sixe severall sorts of principall Chapmen named in the Petition as *Clothiers, Bay-makers, Serge-makers, Say-makers, & Woorsted-Combers*, in a word, all of the old and new Drapery, by what names soever the commodities they make are known, the severall names being too many to be named.

And if the staplers, &c. be prohibited, the Growers will have many more chapmen then they have now, and so consequently a better price. For if there will not then be more buyers then there is now; yet the Growers will have far more buyers then they have now: for then besides such Clothiers as now buy of them, they will have all Clothiers of all sorts to buy of them, that now buy of the staplers, &c. and a few of these do furnish very many Clothiers of all sorts with Wool, which then they must be furnished withall from the Growers. And there is poore Clothiers to buy small parcels of poor Growers, if there were not some single Clothiers that usually buy the Wools of 1, 2, 3 or 4 hundred poor Growers at their own houses: if not, why should not poor Growers (or the poorest, for there is none very poore) carry their wools to Market, as well as they do other things, and as well as the poore Clothiers, and also the rich carry their commodities to Market.

And the staplers &c. will not buy and sell but to be gainers. And had not the Growers better gain that themselvs, which the staplers, &c. gain from the Clothiers, nay the Clothiers can and would give more to the

Growers if they were not prevented by ſtaplers &c. then they would to the ſtaplers, &c.

And doth it not ſtand with reaſon, that the Grower ſhall make the moſt of his wool, when he ſells it to the beſt hand, that is to ſay, to the laſt hand (*viz.*) the hand that uſeth it.

And thus alſo he that uſeth it, buyeth it at the firſt, and ſee the beſt hand, which let him do, let the Growers ſell unto theſe as well as they can, Whereas it now goeth through many hands from the Grower, before it cometh to the Clothier, which is to prejudice both Clothier and Grower, and to cnrich uſeleſſe and unprofitable members, in ſtead of helping and maintaining Growers and Clothiers, which are fit to bee maintained.

For that matter of the Clothiers agreeing together, to pull down the price of wooll in the Growers hands. That they do no not, nor cannot do ſo, but that the other Woolbuyers can and do ſo, may appeare in anſwer to the ſtaplers 4. Objection, *pag.* 10. to the 5. Objection. And it may be added further, that when the Clothiers go to buy, they muſt or doe uſually buy before they return, having another calling to looke after at home,

Whereas the other Woolbuyers ſome of them live, and others of them lye up and down in the Country to beat off the Clothiers from coming to the Wool-growers, and to beat down (after they have perhaps for ſome ends for ſome time raiſed) the price of Wooll in the Growers hands, and to take it when they find their beſt opportunity, and having ingroſſed all or moſt then raiſe the price; and what are the Growers the better for this, unleſſe ſuch Growers as buy more then they growe, and ingroſſe it.

Anſwer to the 4. object. To the 4. Objection, they anſwer, that if that be true, that is given in anſwer unto the Staplers 1. Objection, and unto theſe laſt (which they beleeve cannot be diſproved) then this Objection is falſe, though it be offered to be proved, which will appeare the next day being appointed for that purpoſe. In the meane time the Clothiers deny all theſe allegations, only they confeſſe, they think it will be granted, that they have reaſon to buy their wooll as cheap as they can, and they do not beleeve, that ever there was Law made or repealed to prevent the Clothiers gaine, the State having formerly taken great care for their incouragement, and as is conceived, it cannot in reaſon be denyed, but that the Clothiers incouragement, is a gaine, not a loſſe, to the Common-wealth and Grower.

But it is denyed that the [illegible] parts into these parts, till these times of trouble, to preserve it in safety from the enemy, and do say, that the repealing of the said Law, hath been a losse not only to the Clothier but the Grower. Though it be granted, that there is noe Clothiers living in that Counry, for the Clothiers of *England* where ever they live, go into all parts to buy Wooll where ever it is to be had, which may be an answer to the same Objection in the *Warwick shire Petition*: besides, that it might further be answered, that the *Clothiers* of *Coventry* might bee sufficient to buy that Countyes Wooll, if it were not carryed from them by Staplers, &c. and they of *Coventry* therefore forced to go into divers other Counties farr remote from them to buy Wooll.

And for that Objection concerning Ramney Marsh Wooll, it is answered, it is fit for Clothiers, both of old and new Draperies that would buy it, and that as it is in the Growers hands, and rather before then after it is broke by the Staplers, because themselves can doe it better, if it were not bought up from them by the Staplers, and the last yeare sundry Essex Clothiers went thither, and did buy great quantities of that Wooll, and gave such a price that some Staplers quarrelled with them for it, which was a very great advantage to the Growers.

Further, the Clothiers answer, that they never desired to hinder the Fellmongers from going on with their trade, which is to buy sheepe-skins, and sell the wooll they pluck of them well conditioned.

Answer to the 5. object.

To the 5. Objection they answer, that the former answers to all the aforesaid Objections first and last, may (as they conceive) serve for an answer to this, particularly that pag. 16. *num.* 20. &c. To which may be added, that now from *Holland* divers Counties are furnished with Clothes that had wont to be furnished from hence and it would be accounted almost incredible, to tell how many Workmen and Loomes are there set on work on our Wools.

And for further answer, there cannot be much more then the same things that have been said, said over again, to shew that things are cleane contrary to what the adversaries have suggested, and the adversaries say over the same things again and again, and these Objections are but the Staplers repeated,

For 1. if the said Law be revived the Clothiers, especially the poorer will be better provided for then they now are,

Secondly, the Grower, especially the poore Growers will be better provided for then now they are,

3, And

as is shewed pag. 17. nu. 4. to nu. 6.

For first, Whereas now the staplers, &c. swallow up the profit which the Growers would have from the Clothiers (if the said Wool-drivers did not drive them away) and then having ingrossed the Wools of the Kingdome into their hands, do devoure, especially the poor Clothiers as the great fishes do the lesse. The Wool-growers would be as well furnished with money to serve their occasions as now, and the Clothiers better furnished with Wools for their occasions from the Grower, and at a more reasonable price, and better conditioned then now from the staplers &c. and yet the Growers shall have a better price, and better dealt withall, then they now are by the staplers &c. Whereas now the Growers are discredited by those other Wool-buyers, as well as losers by them in the sale of their Wooll, the grosse abusing of Wooll by these Wooll-growers, being often imputed to the Growers and were it not much better that that which is gained between the Growers and the Clothiers, by the staplers, should bee gained by the Growers, and painefull Clothiers.

Secondly, the richer Clothiers do not desire (as is suggested) to ingrosse wool, or to buy wool, to sell to the poorer Clothiers (they buying onely for their own use) but desire that the poorer Clothiers (who are also the *Petitioners*) should buy at the first hand, and the richer will bee ready to helpe the poorer to have wool at as good a hand as themselues have it.

3. As by this meanes, the Growers will have a better price for their wools, and yet the Clothiers better pennyworths then now they have, so it will increase and advance trading, and so consequently the Revenues of the Crown, which will be an encouragement to breed sheepe, and make the Land of this Kingdome of the greater value, and so rather raise then bring down the prises of rents.

But if it were taken to be a little losse to the Growers, they will give way to it (*if good Common-wealths men*) if it be best for the *Common-wealth* in generall.

And it is wondred, that it should be accounted much more that it should be argued to be any great losse to the Growers, it is much more strange then, it should be said by any, that it would be the Growers undoing, and the undoing of the whole Kingdome, and that particularly it would discourage from the breeding of sheepe, and bring downe rent: and make the land of this Kingdome of little value.

If the answer to the Staplers 3. Objection, *pag. 6.* be considered, to which may be added, that it may very well be said, that sheepe would be

k

kept on them, and what is fit for their keeping, though they yeelded no wool, nor any thing of their skins better then hogs-haire, since their body, and their Lambs as they are not the worst flesh, so they are at no small price, and since they are commonly, or for the most part kept upon the worst ground, barreneſt, dryeſt, & cheapeſt, or not the beſt, as beſt for their breeding, and to keep them from rotting, eſpecially in cold & wet weather, though upon better, when they have young Lambes, and to fat Wethers, and others, for the Butcher.

So that as hath been ſaid, ſheep are ſo precious and beneficiall a commodity to this Kingdome, in reſpect of their wools, not as their wools are in the Growers hands, but after they come into the Clothiers hands & all other manufactorymakers hands to be made into manufactories, as they maintain ſo many of them, and ſo many poor, and as this provides for Trade, which makes this Common-wealth and State to flouriſh, and how little would wool be worth to the Growers, if it were not in theſe reſpects.

Therefore, let wool be kept here and not tranſported nor ingroſſed, and then none muſt uſe it, but thoſe that make it into manufactories, & they muſt have it for their uſe, they cannot be without it (and if the ſtaplers ſhould not ſell it to them, what ſhould they doe with it but tranſport it? It maintaines the Clothiers Trades, and their whole livelyhood and ſubſiſtance, and all the wools of the growth of this Kingdome, are not ſufficient to make all the ſeverall manufactories made therein: if they were, what need there come over hither Spaniſh wools, &c. And in all the aforeſaid reſpects, it is wondred, that the Clothiers ſhould bee ſo much cryed down, for crying down ingroſſers of wool, when nothing ought to be ingroſſed, muchleſſe any ſtaple commodity; and muſt wool the moſt beneficial and precious ſtaple commodity of all, be ingroſſed by Staplers, Felmongers, Jobbers, Braggers, Woolmen, Wooldrivers, & many others, tending to the deſtruction of this Common-wealth and State.

To the 6. Objection, the Clothiers anſwer, that ſince they hope that it cleerly appear that all the aforeſaid anſwers are truths, they may ſay & pray, that God forbid, but that they ſhould prevaile, though ſome have ſpoken, and ſome prayed, for the continuance of all other Woolbuyers, at leaſt for the continuance of the ſtaplers, the Clothiers aforeſaid reaſons, and what more may be given, not having been yet heard: It is confeſſed the ſtaplers might be of good uſe, when it was good for this Kingdome to have the wools thereof tranſported, for which purpoſe they were appointed, but whither (conſidering what hath bin ſaid) they

Anſwer to the 6. objection.

they be of use now, that it is destructive to this Kingdome to have the wools there of transported, is submitted to the wisdome of the Parliament to judge.

And if it be still for the wealth and honour of this Kingdome, God forbid, but that they should still be continued as formerly, but not continued if the contrary, though they have, without question, used all meanes to perswade the Growers to be for them (pretending themselves to be a benefit to them) as may appear, *pag.* 2. from 8. to 10. and as may appear by the afore mentioned *Petitions* and *Certificates* agreeing with their Objections before delivered into the Committee (and the Answers to the staplers Objections, might serve for an answer to the rest) they having also, as may plainly appeare, laboured to possesse as many members of the honourable House of Commons as they can, against the Clothiers who will in the conclusion be for the Clothiers, as is hoped, being rightly informed; and what though some Growers of some few Counties, have given their hands for them being perswaded, they are a benefit to them, what is it to the whole Kingdome: besides, that likely more hands might be had against them, then for them, and perhaps the same that have been for them, if they were rightly informed, who in being for them, have beene against themselves, and there is the Clothiers of neere 20 Counties against them, as *Essex*, *Suffolke*, *Norfolke*, *Kent*, *Sussex*, *Surrey*, *Hampshire*, *Glocestershire*, *Wiltshire*, *Somersetshire*, *Worcester shire*, *Warwick shire* *Berk shire*, *York shire*, *Lancashire*, *Devonshire*, *Dorsetshire*, *Oxfordshire*, coming (Marchants & other Tradesmen concurring, as in *pag.* 18.) 3 or 4 of these last Counties having come against them since the publishing of the Petition as is noted in *C.* answer *pag.* 12. which they pretended would be for them) So that there is thousands more come against them then before, and none for them, though they pretended there would come thousands for them, and no question their endeavours have not been wanting. And if they could have procured more for them, then against them, it had beene something, and the Clothiers have dealt fairly in this businesse. as see *pag.* 2.

But the Parliament is able to judge of right and wrong, before whom this cause is brought, and to whom it is left.